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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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09/212,203

12/15/1998

T. ALLAN HAMILTON

CLB7-B93

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09/08/2004

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EXAMINER

PHAN, HANH

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

2633

DATE MAILED: 09/08/2004

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

Office Action Summary

Application No.

09/212,203

Applicant(s)

HAMILTON, T. ALLAN

Examiner

Hanh Phan

Art Unit

2633

✓

-- The MAILING DATE of this communication appears on the cover sheet with the correspondence address --

Period for Reply

A SHORTENED STATUTORY PERIOD FOR REPLY IS SET TO EXPIRE 3 MONTH(S) FROM THE MAILING DATE OF THIS COMMUNICATION.

- Extensions of time may be available under the provisions of 37 CFR 1.136(a). In no event, however, may a reply be timely filed after SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- If the period for reply specified above is less than thirty (30) days, a reply within the statutory minimum of thirty (30) days will be considered timely.
- If NO period for reply is specified above, the maximum statutory period will apply and will expire SIX (6) MONTHS from the mailing date of this communication.
- Failure to reply within the set or extended period for reply will, by statute, cause the application to become ABANDONED (35 U.S.C. § 133). Any reply received by the Office later than three months after the mailing date of this communication, even if timely filed, may reduce any earned patent term adjustment. See 37 CFR 1.704(b).

Status

- 1) ☒ Responsive to communication(s) filed on 15 December 1998.
- 2a) ☒ This action is FINAL. 2b) ☐ This action is non-final.
- 3) ☐ Since this application is in condition for allowance except for formal matters, prosecution as to the merits is closed in accordance with the practice under *Ex parte Quayle*, 1935 C.D. 11, 453 O.G. 213.

Disposition of Claims

- 4) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8, 14-17 and 19-22 is/are pending in the application.
- 4a) Of the above claim(s) _____ is/are withdrawn from consideration.
- 5) ☒ Claim(s) 5-8 and 14-17 is/are allowed.
- 6) ☒ Claim(s) 19-22 is/are rejected.
- 7) ☐ Claim(s) _____ is/are objected to.
- 8) ☐ Claim(s) _____ are subject to restriction and/or election requirement.

Application Papers

- 9) ☐ The specification is objected to by the Examiner.
- 10) ☐ The drawing(s) filed on _____ is/are: a) ☐ accepted or b) ☐ objected to by the Examiner.
Applicant may not request that any objection to the drawing(s) be held in abeyance. See 37 CFR 1.85(a).
Replacement drawing sheet(s) including the correction is required if the drawing(s) is objected to. See 37 CFR 1.121(d).
- 11) ☐ The oath or declaration is objected to by the Examiner. Note the attached Office Action or form PTO-152.

Priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119

- 12) ☐ Acknowledgment is made of a claim for foreign priority under 35 U.S.C. § 119(a)-(d) or (f).
- a) ☐ All b) ☐ Some * c) ☐ None of:
- ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received.
 - ☐ Certified copies of the priority documents have been received in Application No. _____.
 - ☐ Copies of the certified copies of the priority documents have been received in this National Stage application from the International Bureau (PCT Rule 17.2(a)).

* See the attached detailed Office action for a list of the certified copies not received.

Attachment(s)

- | | |
|--|---|
| 1) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Notice of References Cited (PTO-892) | 4) <input type="checkbox"/> Interview Summary (PTO-413)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date. _____ |
| 2) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Draftsperson's Patent Drawing Review (PTO-948) | 5) <input type="checkbox"/> Notice of Informal Patent Application (PTO-152) |
| 3) <input type="checkbox"/> Information Disclosure Statement(s) (PTO-1449 or PTO/SB/08)
Paper No(s)/Mail Date _____ | 6) <input type="checkbox"/> Other: _____ |

DETAILED ACTION

1. This Office Action is responsive to the Amendment filed on 06/18/2004.

Drawings

2. The drawings are objected to under 37 CFR 1.83(a). The drawings must show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. Therefore, the feature **“a feedback stage including a linear amplifier having an input connected to receive the amplified signal the output of the at least one amplification stage and an output connected to provide a signal to the node that is a linear sample of the amplified signal output in a manner to reduce an input impedance at the node and increase a bandwidth of the at least one amplification stage”** specified in the claim 19 must be shown or the feature(s) canceled from the claim(s). No new matter should be entered.

Corrected drawing sheets in compliance with 37 CFR 1.121(d) are required in reply to the Office action to avoid abandonment of the application. Any amended replacement drawing sheet should include all of the figures appearing on the immediate prior version of the sheet, even if only one figure is being amended. The figure or figure number of an amended drawing should not be labeled as “amended.” If a drawing figure is to be canceled, the appropriate figure must be removed from the replacement sheet, and where necessary, the remaining figures must be renumbered and appropriate changes made to the brief description of the several views of the drawings for consistency. Additional replacement sheets may be necessary to show the renumbering of the remaining

Art Unit: 2633

figures. The replacement sheet(s) should be labeled "Replacement Sheet" in the page header (as per 37 CFR 1.84(c)) so as not to obstruct any portion of the drawing figures. If the changes are not accepted by the examiner, the applicant will be notified and informed of any required corrective action in the next Office action. The objection to the drawings will not be held in abeyance.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 102

3. The following is a quotation of the appropriate paragraphs of 35 U.S.C. 102 that form the basis for the rejections under this section made in this Office action:

A person shall be entitled to a patent unless –

(e) the invention was described in (1) an application for patent, published under section 122(b), by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent or (2) a patent granted on an application for patent by another filed in the United States before the invention by the applicant for patent, except that an international application filed under the treaty defined in section 351(a) shall have the effects for purposes of this subsection of an application filed in the United States only if the international application designated the United States and was published under Article 21(2) of such treaty in the English language.

4. Claim 19 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(e) as being anticipated by Yoshizawa (US Patent No. 6,396,614).

Regarding claim 19, referring to Figure 3, Yoshizawa discloses a communications receiver, comprising:

a photodiode (i.e., photodiode 1, Fig. 3) that outputs an electrical signal to a node with a magnitude related to a level of an infrared radiation signal incident thereon,

Art Unit: 2633

at least one amplification stage (i.e., pre-amplifier 4, Fig. 3) with an input connected to the node and having an amplified signal output (i.e., output node OUTPUT, Fig. 3), and

a feedback stage including a linear amplifier (i.e., a feedback stage including a linear amplifier 8, Fig. 3) having an input connected to receive the amplified signal the output of the at least one amplification stage and an output connected to provide a signal to the node that is a linear sample of the amplified signal output in a manner to reduce an input impedance at the node and increase a bandwidth of the at least one amplification stage (col. 3, lines 1-7 and lines 32-54).

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103

5. The following is a quotation of 35 U.S.C. 103(a) which forms the basis for all obviousness rejections set forth in this Office action:

(a) A patent may not be obtained though the invention is not identically disclosed or described as set forth in section 102 of this title, if the differences between the subject matter sought to be patented and the prior art are such that the subject matter as a whole would have been obvious at the time the invention was made to a person having ordinary skill in the art to which said subject matter pertains. Patentability shall not be negated by the manner in which the invention was made.

6. Claims 20-22 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being unpatentable over Yoshizawa (US Patent No. 6,396,614) in view of Inami et al (US Patent No. 5,612,810).

Regarding claim 20, Yoshizawa differs from claim 20 in that he does not specifically teach the amplification stage includes at least first and second amplification stages connected in series. However, Inami teaches an optical

Art Unit: 2633

receiver comprises an amplification stage includes at least first and second amplification stages connected in series (Figs. 3 and 9, col. 4, lines 27-45 and col. 6, lines 30-44). One skilled in the art would recognize that providing the amplification stages would have allowed to increase the power level of a signal. Therefore, it would have been obvious to one of ordinary skill in the art at the time the invention was made to incorporate the amplification stages as taught by Inami in the system of Yoshizawa. One of ordinary skill in the art would have been motivated to do this since Inami suggests in column 4, lines 27-45 and col. 6, lines 30-44 that using such the amplification stage includes at least first and second amplification stages connected in series has advantage of allowing increasing the power level of a signal up to a predetermined level and increasing the signal to noise ratio.

Regarding claim 21, the combination of Yoshizawa and Inami teaches the second amplification stage is characterized by an absence of any feedback resistor (Figs. 3 and 9 of Inami).

Regarding claim 22, the combination of Yoshizawa and Inami teaches wherein there is only noise contribution to the amplified signal output from the first amplification stage (Figs. 3 and 9 of Inami, col. 4, lines 27-45 and col. 6, lines 30-44).

Allowable Subject Matter

7. Claims 5-8 and 14-17 are allowed.

Response to Arguments

8. Applicant's arguments with respect to claims 19-22 have been considered but are moot in view of the new ground(s) of rejection.

Conclusion

9. Applicant's amendment necessitated the new ground(s) of rejection presented in this Office action. Accordingly, **THIS ACTION IS MADE FINAL**. See MPEP § 706.07(a). Applicant is reminded of the extension of time policy as set forth in 37 CFR 1.136(a).

A shortened statutory period for reply to this final action is set to expire THREE MONTHS from the mailing date of this action. In the event a first reply is filed within TWO MONTHS of the mailing date of this final action and the advisory action is not mailed until after the end of the THREE-MONTH shortened statutory period, then the shortened statutory period will expire on the date the advisory action is mailed, and any extension fee pursuant to 37 CFR 1.136(a) will be calculated from the mailing date of the advisory action. In no event, however, will the statutory period for reply expire later than SIX MONTHS from the date of this final action.

10. Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Hanh Phan whose telephone number is (571)272-3035.

Art Unit: 2633

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Jason Chan, can be reached on (571)272-3022. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is (703)872-9306.

Any inquiry of a general nature or relating to the status of this application or proceeding should be directed to the receptionist whose telephone number is (703)305-4700.

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read 'Hanh Phan', is written over a horizontal line.

Hanh Phan

01/09/2004